

Timothy F. Hoste
15435 Chestnut St.
Roseville, MI 48066

May 31, 2012

The Honorable State Representative Peter Lund, Committee Chair
Michigan House of Representatives Insurance Committee
374 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Proposed Amendment to HB 5588

Chairman Lund and Members of the House Insurance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. A few weeks ago, House Bill 4393 was passed. This legislation provides protection from prosecution for anyone under the age of 21 who seeks medical help or treatment for an alcohol related incident. It is my understanding that this Bill was written to help encourage those under 21 get the treatment or medical care they need because of alcohol, instead of not going for treatment out of fear of being charged with a crime.

Now, here we are just a few weeks later looking at a Bill that will deny people Auto No-fault Benefits, if they are involved in an accident that is alcohol related. Unlike HB4393, HB5588 will not only severely limit the medical care and treatment an individual will receive, but they will also be prosecuted based on whatever laws they have broken.

In one Bill (HB4393) we are more than willing to prevent people under the age of 21 from being charged with a crime that they did commit, as long as they are attempting to receive medical care or treatment. While in the other Bill (HB5588), we want to deny people under the age of 21 the medical care and treatment they require, and will still prosecute them for their offense.

To me this is backwards and sends a very inconsistent message. I feel that anyone who breaks the law should be charged with the crime(s) that they committed, whether it is minor in possession, DUI, OWI, etc. More importantly, we must make sure that anyone under the age of 21 is able to access any and all medical care and treatment they might require for an alcohol related incident, no matter the circumstance.

Please give this serious consideration. Whatever legislation is written, people, especially younger people will still use poor judgment, and in turn will need medical care and treatment because of their bad decisions. We need to make sure that the medical care they receive is proper care that will allow them to recover to their maximum medical potential, and that their care doesn't come at the expense of a cost shift to Michigan tax payers.